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Department of State

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 34296

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/S ROY ONLY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS NIACT IMMEDIATE TO GENERAL
SCOWCROFT AND DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER ABOARD
USAF 24126

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, CH, US, CH
SUBJECT: PRC SUSPENDS POST GRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LIU HUAQIU CALLED IN CHARGE
ON DECEMBER 8 TO EXPRESS THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S
"UTMOST INDIGNATION" OVER PRESIDENT BUSH'S DECISION
TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR CHINESE J-1 STUDENTS
IN THE U.S. TO RETURN TO CHINA. AS A RESULT OF THE
PRESIDENT'S ACTION, LIU SAID, CHINA WOULD "SUSPEND
SENDING CHINESE PERSONNEL TO THE U.S. AS STUDENTS
FOR POST-GRADUATE COURSES." LIU OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH
PRESIDENT BUSH HAD POCKET-VETOED THE PELOSI BILL,
THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS THE PRESIDENT SUBSEQUENTLY
ISSUED ALLOWING CHINESE STUDENTS TO REMAIN IN THE
U.S. PUT IN EFFECT THE SAME PROVISIONS. LIU URGED
AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
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PRESIDENT'S ORDER.

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3. CHARGE TOLD LIU THE CHINESE DECISION WAS REGRETTABLE AND DID NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF EITHER CHINA OR THE UNITED STATES. LIU HAD REFERRED TO HIS HOPES FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT'S UPCOMING VISIT TO CHINA AND THE TIMING OF THIS CHINESE ACTION WAS PARTICULARLY BAD. HE REMINDED LIU OF THE GREAT POLITICAL COSTS PRESIDENT BUSH HAD RISKED IN VETOING THE PELOSI BILL AND CRITICISM HIS ACTION HAD RECEIVED. NOTING LIU HAD SAID THEY WOULD PUBLICIZE THE PROTEST WITHOUT THE OPERATIVE PORTION, CHARGE URGED THE CHINESE TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION. END SUMMARY.

4. THE MAIN POINTS OF LIU'S DEMARCHE:

-- CHINA EXPRESSES UTMOST INDIGNATION OVER AND LODGES A STRONG PROTEST AGAINST PRESIDENT BUSH'S ACTION ON CHINESE STUDENTS. THE PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES HARM THE SINO-U.S. AGREEMENT ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES AND THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

-- SENDING OF CHINESE PERSONNEL TO STUDY ABROAD, THEIR MANAGEMENT AND ARRANGEMENT UPON THEIR RETURN ARE ALL CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN WHICH NO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT HAS A RIGHT TO INTERFERE.

-- ALLEGATIONS THAT CHINESE STUDYING ABROAD MIGHT BE PERSECUTED UPON THEIR RETURN TO CHINA ARE COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS.

-- CHINA EXPRESSES PROFOUND REGRET THAT PRESIDENT BUSH ISSUED ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES ALLOWING CHINESE

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STUDENTS TO STAY IN THE U.S. "ON THE EXCUSE THEY MIGHT BE SUBJECTED TO PERSECUTION WHEN THEY RETURN HOME."

-- ALTHOUGH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED IT IS OPPOSED TO THE PELOSI BILL, REGRETTABLY PRESIDENT BUSH HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS MEASURES IN PELOSI BY ISSUING AN ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM.

- AS A RESULT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S VIOLATION OF

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INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND THE SERIOUS BREACH OF THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES FOR SUCH EXCHANGES, SINO-U.S. EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES CANNOT PROCEED IN A NORMAL MANNER.

-- THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT "CANNOT BUT MAKE THE DECISION TO SUSPEND SENDING CHINESE PERSONNEL TO THE U.S. AS STUDENTS FOR POST-GRADUATE COURSES."

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5. AFTER THE INTERPRETER FINISHED READING THE DEMARCHE, LIU SAID HE FELT THE CHINESE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S ACTION IN THIS CASE HAD BEEN RESTRAINED. CHINA HAD TAKEN NOTE OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S POCKET VETO OF THE PELOSI BILL, BUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY PRESIDENT BUSH WERE, IN EFFECT, THE SAME AS THE PROVISIONS OF THE PELOSI BILL. HE SAID CHINA HOPED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES COULD BE STOPPED. AFTER THAT, CHINA WOULD THEN RECONSIDER SENDING CHINESE

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GRADUATE STUDENTS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR STUDY.
LIU ALSO SAID THEY WOULD NOT PUBLISH THE OPERATIVE
PORTION OF THE TALKING POINTS AND THEN NOTED THE
CHINESE LOOK FORWARD TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT'S
VISIT AS A WAY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

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6. CHARGE TOLD LIU THE DECISION TO SUSPEND EXCHANGES
WAS REGRETTABLE. HE REMINDED LIU THAT PRESIDENT
BUSH HAD TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO IMPROVE SINO-U.S.
RELATIONS AND, AT GREAT POLITICAL COST, HAD FOUGHT
HARD AGAINST THE PELOSI BILL DESPITE ITS WIDESPREAD
POPULARITY. HE TOLD LIU THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT,
IN TAKING THIS TYPE OF DECISION, HAD MADE A BASIC
MISREADING OF OUR EFFORTS TO MANAGE THE PROCESS OF
IMPROVING SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. CHARGE OBSERVED THAT

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TODAY'S ACTION IS NOT ONLY NOT HELPFUL TO OUR
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT IS ALSO

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DIRECTLY AGAINST CHINA'S OWN LONG-TERM INTERESTS. THE CHARGE ADDED THAT THE TIMING OF THIS DECISION SEEMED PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE.

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7. NOTING LIU'S REFERENCE TO "THE MANAGEMENT AND ARRANGEMENT" OF CHINESE STUDYING ABROAD WAS AN INTERNAL MATTER, PASCOE SAID HE HOPED THIS DID NOT SUGGEST CHINA INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH ITS STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD. PASCOE WARNED LIU THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY HARASSMENT OF CHINESE STUDENTS ON AMERICAN SOIL, WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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8. LIU COMMENTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT BUSH ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THE PELOSI BILL. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE CANNOT "SWALLOW THIS BITTER PILL." THE DECISION TO SUSPEND SENDING STUDENTS FOR POST-GRADUATE COURSES IN THE U.S. IS ONE CHINA WAS FORCED TO MAKE, HE SAID, AND FOR WHICH CHINA HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY.

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9. ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING, LIU SAID THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AT THIS POINT PURPOSELY SO THE CHINESE POSITION WOULD BE "CLEAR" BEFORE GENERAL SCOWCROFT'S ARRIVAL. LIU CLAIMED THAT TELLING US THEIR DECISION NOW WOULD MAKE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE FOR THE TALKS WITH GENERAL SCOWCROFT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT REFERRED TO PRESIDENT BUSH BY NAME BECAUSE OF THE

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GREAT ESTEEM IN WHICH THEY HOLD HIM.

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10. CHARGE COMMENTED THAT THE CHINESE ACTION SEEMED DESIGNED TO WORSEN RELATIONS AT THE WRONG TIME. HE ALSO ASKED FOR A CLARIFICATION OF THE SCOPE OF THE CHINESE ACTION. LIU MERELY REREAD THE LANGUAGE FROM THE DEMARCHE. CHARGE THEN CLOSED BY TELLING LIU HE HOPED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD RECONSIDER ITS DECISION.

11. XINHUA CARRIED ABBREVIATED STORY ON PROTEST THIS

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AFTERNOON.
PASCOE

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